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U N C L A S S I F I E D

5. USSR: Politburo member and Central Committee secretary Chernenko, an increasingly prominent Brezhnev protege and succession candidate, has identified himself more clearly than ever with the campaign to induce officials to pay more attention to citizens' letters and complaints. Despite Chernenko's claim of success for the campaign, it has been largely ignored by the main regional party organizations. Chernenko's efforts to boost the campaign within the party apparatus complements Brezhnev's moves to keep his protege in the public eye by taking him along on foreign visits and arranging for him to receive unusual honors. The failure of the campaign to catch on, however, suggests resistance in the party not only to a drive against the bureaucracy but also to the Chernenko buildup, which presumably is viewed as part of the succession maneuvering. (FBIS Trends)

In a statement in today's Pravda, Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov said that if the US places new missiles in European NATO countries it would seriously complicate future disarmament talks and destabilize Soviet-US relations. Ustinov accused NATO leaders of juggling facts to justify a new round in the arms race. Ustinov's remarks suggest that the Kremlin would rethink its detente policies and move to a more hardline defense posture if the NATO weapons modernization plan went ahead. (Reuter)

#### MIDDLE EAST

6. SAUDI ARABIA: The Economist reports that Saudi Arabia is considering increasing its current oil production level by one million barrels per day to 10.5 million in an effort to stabilize oil prices. The magazine said the Saudis, in an effort to take the steam out of the spot market, want to "shock" exporters like Iran, Kuwait and Libya, who have increased their oil prices beyond the price ceiling of \$23.50 reached at the OPEC conference in Geneva last June. Oil experts in London, however, doubt whether the Saudis could sustain such production levels for very long, or, more importantly, whether the "hawks" in the Saudi Government who want to hold down production would permit it politically. (AP)
7. EGYPT/ISRAEL/US: Egyptian Prime Minister Khalil, who arrived in London yesterday for Friday's negotiating session on the West Bank autonomy issue, said that if the talks did not make any progress, Egypt would request another summit meeting of Presidents Carter and Sadat and Prime Minister Begin. Blaming "Israeli interpretations" for complicating every issue, Khalil said Egypt had nothing new to contribute to this round of talks, hinting that Cairo expected US envoy Strauss to exert some pressure on Israel to compromise. Strauss and Israeli chief negotiator Yosef Burg are scheduled to arrive in London today. (NYT)

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